Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for ex situ oxidizing passivation of a sulfurized hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst, comprising a first step of contacting said ~~sulphurized~~sulfurized catalyst with at least one oxidizing gaseous stream, and a subsequent~~second~~ step of contacting the catalyst with at least one organic liquid with an initial boiling point of more than 120°C which at least partially fills the pores of the catalyst.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein contact with said gas stream is carried out in two stages, the first in a partial pressure of oxygen of less than 8 kPa, the second in a partial pressure of oxygen that is higher than that of the first stage and at most 21.3 kPa.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the second stage of the first step is carried out in air.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein contact with said gas stream is carried out in one or more stages with one or more gas streams all having a partial pressure of oxygen of more than 8 kPa.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6 wherein the stream or streams is/are air.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is treated while in motion.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst is in a moving bed.

Claim 10 (Original) A process according to claim 9, carried out in a rotary oven, a fluidized bed oven, a band oven, a gravity bed reactor oven or a rising bed device.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said organic liquid used in the second step comprises kerosene, gas oil, a vacuum distillate, a lube oil, a wax or a paraffin with an initial boiling point of more than 180°C.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said organic liquid comprises a compound containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 12, wherein said organic liquid comprises an alcohol, an aldehyde, a ketone, an ester, an amine, an amide, a mercaptan, a sulphide or a sulphone.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 13, wherein the organic liquid is an ester.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein said

ester comprises animal or vegetable oils or partially unsaturated fatty acid triglycerides.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises Co and Mo.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the organic liquid comprises an ester.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic liquid comprises an ester.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, wherein the catalyst comprises Co and Mo.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 19, wherein said ester comprises animal or vegetable oils or partially unsaturated fatty acid triglycerides.

Claim 21 (New) A process for ex situ oxidizing passivation of a sulfurized hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst, comprising a first step of contacting said sulfurized catalyst with at least one oxidizing gaseous stream, and a second step of contacting the catalyst with at least one organic liquid with an initial boiling point of more than 120°C which at least partially fills the pores of the catalyst, said second step being conducted on the catalyst previously contacted with said at least one oxidizing gaseous stream and without any intervening chemical reaction between the first and second steps.

Claim 22 (New) A process for ex situ oxidizing passivation of a sulfurized hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst, comprising a first step of contacting said sulfurized catalyst with at least one oxidizing gaseous stream, and an immediately subsequent step of contacting the catalyst with at least one organic liquid with an initial boiling point of more than 120°C which at least partially fills the pores of the catalyst.